

COL-SHEPARD DIES SUDDENLY

SURGEONS WERE GIVING HIM ETHER.

An Examination and Possibly an Operation for Calculus was Contemplated—He was

at His Office on Thursday, and Even Telephone Orders Down Yesterday—The Cause of Death (Etiology) of the Lungs Due to Etherization—His Wife and Three Daughters Summoned to the House by the Strutting News—Another Daughter is on the Ocean—Col. Shepard's History—His Newspaper had Made All America Acquainted With Him—A Great Giver of Money to Charity and the Best Contributor of Funds the Republican Party Had

and Express, died suddenly yesterday afternoon at his home, 2 West Fifty-second street. His death followed the administration of ether by Dr. Charles McBurney and the family physician, Dr. J. W. McLane, who were about to make an examination to ascertain whether

The Colonel's suspicions that he suffered from stone in the bladder were correct. Col. Shennard has been in good health, but nearly a month ago he noticed symptoms that led him to believe that he was afflicted with stone in the bladder. He went to Dr. McLane and told him of his suspicions. The Doctor confirmed them and advised him to at least submit to an examination, and to undergo an operation should it be deemed necessary. The Colonel agreed.

to this, and yesterday was the day decided on for the examination.

ELLIOTT F. SHEPARD.

Up to yesterday morning Col. Shepard had attended to his business in the usual way. He was at his office every day. No one there knew of the contemplated operation when he went home on Thursday evening. He merely told his manager, A. B. De Frece, that he probably would not be down on Friday, but that he would be there on Saturday afternoon. Yesterday morning about 9 o'clock, before the arrival of the doctor, he complained of

severe pains, and said he thought he would go to bed. But first he went to the telephone, called up the office of the *Mail and Express*, and gave a number of instructions about the future conduct of the newspaper in case anything should happen to him. As nobody in

his office knew he was ill these instructions caused considerable wonder, but it never was the habit of anybody in the office to question anything that the Colonel did, and not even any inquiries were made as to what might be the matter.

After telephoning these instructions, the Colonel lay down a while. The distress he suffered left him, and when the physicians came in later he was in good spirits.

About 1 o'clock Col. Shepard said that he was ready for the surgeons, and they, with the nurses, began the work of putting him under ether. He had inhaled the drug but two or

three times when the physicians detected dangerous symptoms and stopped the inhalation. Col. Shepard sank rapidly, and for a time it was feared that he could not be rallied. Powerful restoratives were administered. At the end of an hour's work with oxygen he was restored to partial consciousness, and he continued apparently to rally until about 4 o'clock. Then, without warning and for no apparent reason, he began rapidly

to sink. The oxygen treatment was resumed, but it was of no avail; at 4:20 o'clock he died. He was unconscious, and his death was peaceful. The cause of death given by the physicians was edema of the lungs.

Immediately before Col. Shepard's death messages were sent to Mrs. Shepard announcing that he was very low, and that he might not live. She reached the house at about 9 o'clock. It was nearly 10 o'clock when the news of Col. Shepard's death got down town. It was not believed at first, even at the Mail and Express office.

When Mr. D. A. Free received official information he and the building closed up and was immediately closed. The building had just arrived, and was almost prostrated by the news. Messages had just been sent to the Vanderbilts and to immediate friends of the family. They began arriving about 8 1/2 o'clock. Cornelius Vanderbilt was one of the first. He entered the house through the Fifth Avenue entrance and remained a long time. He was followed by Mr. Wm. C. C. Vanderbilt, who was a member of Dr. Hall's church, and was an officer there. Chauncey M. Depew was the fourth or fifth visitor. He said to

the reporters: "The death of Col. Shepard is a very great shock. Indeed, it was wholly unexpected. Some of us knew that he contemplated the operation which resulted in his sudden death, but none of us supposed for an instant that there was a possibility of its terminating fatally."

The news of Col. Shepard's death reached Mr. Dewey at his house within twenty minutes, and he, knowing that Cornelius Vanderbilt was attending a meeting of the Board of Trustees of St. Luke's hospital, went to that place, and, finding that neither he nor the other trustees were there, they went to the

It was because of his loving care for them, said Mr. Dewey to a SUN reporter, "that all the members of the family were away. Col. Shepard had known for a long time that he was fighting his last stone in the bladder. And in the painful nature of the operations necessary for relief, or even for ascertaining accurately the extent of his trouble, he had put off from time to time the examination, but he had finally determined to have it made yesterday. This was not to be an

with a plan to get his family out of the way with his first care. His son was already at school at Lawrenceville. He induced his wife to spend the day at his summer home at Scarborough, near Peekskill, on the plea that the place needed looking after to prepare for their early going. To his daughters he gave a luncheon party, to which some of their friends were invited, and he sent a note off to Radzewska's concert in the afternoon. By 1:30 all were gone, and at that hour his doctors came by appointment. As Dr. McLane, Dr. McBurney, and Dr. Parker, Dr. McBurney

nev's assistant appeared, he ushered them in, serving in pace. The clocks are clear." He led them right up to his bedroom, which he had turned into a hospital room, and he called the nurse in attendance already, in case he might be needed after ward. No one else was in the house but servants. The doctors proceeded to examine him for heart troubles, and finding nothing wrong there, began to give him a quieting dose of ether. He had hardly taken more than one full inhalation of the ether when the pain in his chest was as wrong. He vomited. They withdrew the ether and in place of it gave him pure oxygen.

to breathe. This had been provided, in a little while Col. Shepard regained consciousness, and, supposing that the examination was over began asking questions about it. The doctors did not tell him the facts, but talked about other matters. Col. Shepard seemed to be getting along well, until at 4 o'clock he sank into coma, and in twenty minutes he was dead. As he died, the doctors said, of serous effusion in a lung, like at the